

News of Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office, 16/1/2012

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1. High interest in December's CTTC panel discussion „The ballot and the box“

On November 30, 2011, shortly after Egypt's first day of parliamentary elections, the fifth CTTC panel discussion took place. On the subject of Egyptian parliamentary elections, Ivesa Lübber (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Naiera Ellethy, a M.A. student in Mediterranean Studies and Project Officer at Al Nakib Center, and Dr. Samer Soliman (AUC) discussed prospects as well as occurrences and the first available results of the voting day. The Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC) are jointly organized by the FU Berlin Cairo Office, the German Academic Exchange Service Cairo Office (DAAD) and the Cairo office of Orient Institut Beirut (OIB).

An online newspaper article (in German) on the latest event can be found here: <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/zeitung/aegypten-und-der-wahlmarathon/5941548.html>.

2. 15th New Faces Conference in Cairo on February 2-5, 2012

“Transitions in Egypt and Tunisia through the Prism of Gender Equality” will be the topic of the 15th New Faces Conference, held in Cairo from February 2-5, 2012. 20 promising young professionals from Egypt, Tunisia, Germany, Morocco, the UK, Italy and Spain working in the fields of science, politics and civil society organizations will be discussing gender equality in the political process of Egypt and Tunisia. Plenary and working group topics are: a look back on developments since the fall of Ben Ali and Mubarak,

emancipation strategies, Islamic feminism, gender equality in other Muslim countries and external actors. Participants from Freie Universität Berlin are Hoda Salah of Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science and Nilden Vardar of the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Society. The conference is organized by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in cooperation with Robert-Bosch-Foundation, The American University in Cairo (AUC) and Freie Universität Berlin Cairo Office.

3. Student representatives of Cairo University to visit Freie Universität Berlin

16 selected student union representatives of Cairo University will be visiting Berlin in mid-February to discuss student participation and the development of democratic university structures. The students will be learning about the past and present of student participation in Germany, student projects, as well as student influence in dormitories and cafeterias. They will have numerous opportunities for exchange with student representatives of Freie Universität Berlin as well as Leipzig University. Furthermore, a panel discussion will be held on current political developments in Egypt. The exchange is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and is part of the cooperation between Cairo University and Freie Universität Berlin.

4. FUBiS winter university term 2012 starts, application process for summer university terms still open

On Sunday, January 15, the first term of this year's FUBiS International Summer and Winter University program started. Besides the ongoing winter term, FUBiS offers two summer terms (respectively 4 and 6 weeks long) in which students from all over the world have the opportunity to take German language courses, courses from specific fields of study, or both. Students receive ECTS credits that they might be able to transfer to their home university programs. FUBiS term II will be held from May 25 until July 7, 2012 (application deadline: April 28, 2012), term III from July 14 until August 11, 2012 (application deadline: June 16, 2012). For further information and application details, please refer to <http://www.fubis.org>.

5. Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation: new program for Egypt and Tunisia

Through a new program, Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation is aiming to strengthen and expand their existing networks of researchers in Egypt and Tunisia. The goal of the program is to support the democratic transition of both countries in politics, society, and scholarship. Alumni from Egypt and Tunisia are increasingly funded through further research stays in Germany, material resources, as well as institute partnerships and specialist conferences, the Humboldt-Kollegs. Junior researchers that have not been part of an AvH program can participate in new application processes in both

countries. Furthermore, tandem-re-invitations will allow alumni to return to Germany with recommended junior colleagues. The new program is established with special funding from the German Federal Foreign Office. Further information can be found here: <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/press-release-2011-34.html>.

6. Application process still open for some excellence programs at Dahlem Research School

Particularly outstanding doctoral programs at Freie Universität Berlin are comprised under the umbrella of [Dahlem Research School](#). Doctoral candidates participating in the DRS-member programs benefit from additional possibilities of financial support, interdisciplinary courses and systematic assistance in career planning. The Welcome Center offers special services for international students and organizes, inter alia, orientation weeks for the newly admitted doctoral candidates. The application process for some excellence programs at Dahlem Research School is still open:

- Graduate School of North American Studies:

10 doctoral scholarships, application deadline: January 31, 2012

See <http://www.gsnas.fu-berlin.de/admissions/index.html>

- Berlin Graduate School for Transnational Studies:

8 doctoral scholarships, 3-year full-time PhD program, application deadline: February 1, 2012

Online application on : www.transnationalstudies.eu

-PhD program at the International Max Planck Research School for Computational Biology and Scientific Computing,
Application deadline: March 2, 2012

Further information and application requirements: <http://www.imprs-cbsc.mpg.de/application.shtml>

7. Call for applications for the new Erasmus Mundus program "WELCOME"

Freie Universität Berlin is part of the Erasmus Mundus program "WELCOME" with Egyptian and Lebanese Universities. The program offers a wide range of scholarship opportunities for Bachelor and Master Students, PhD Candidates, Postdocs and Academic Staff Members from Egyptian and Lebanese Universities. Students and Scholars from Freie Universität Berlin can apply for study and research stays at one of the Egyptian and Lebanese member universities.

For full details on the program including eligibility, fields of study, application forms and contact details at your university, please see the respective call for applications: <http://www.emwelcome.polito.it/application>.

8. Grants by the German-Egyptian Research Fund (GERF) for the funding of joint German-Egyptian research projects in social sciences and humanities

The German-Egyptian Research Fund is funding interested researchers in the field of social sciences and humanities who conduct joint German-Egyptian research projects. Fundable projects should add to the democratic and economic development by integrating public institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. Empirical and interdisciplinary projects including young researchers are explicitly encouraged. Application deadline is February 16, 2012. Further information can be found on <http://cairo.daad.de/>. The call for applications is accessible [here](#).